



**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**December 21, 2006**

**For immediate release**

**1. Public input sought on rule changes for water projects that require a permit**

**PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT ON RULE CHANGES FOR WATER PROJECTS THAT REQUIRE A PERMIT**

**MEDIA CONTACT: Christine Schwake at 515-281-6615.**

DES MOINES – The DNR is seeking public input on rule changes for projects that have an impact on Iowa waters, including wetlands and lakes.

Every five years, the DNR has the opportunity to provide input on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' nationwide permits. The DNR's proposed rule changes provide that input.

The public is invited to make oral or written comments at the meeting to be held at 1 p.m., Dec. 26, in the Wallace State Office Building, 502 East Ninth Street, Des Moines.

Anyone with a project that impacts the banks or other parts of a water body could be affected and is required to get a permit.

If the project has a minimal impact on streams, lakes or wetlands, it's covered by a nationwide permit issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Such projects would include bridge construction, shoreline and streambank stabilization, wetland restoration, some residential, commercial or institutional developments, and similar activities.

"If planning a project in one of our lakes, streams or wetlands, you must apply for a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers before beginning the project," said Chris Schwake, an environmental specialist for the DNR.

“The DNR’s new rules will let people get their corps’ permits more quickly, if the project is one that is covered under a nationwide permit or under two new Iowa regional permits,” Schwake said.

The DNR’s proposed rule changes to Chapter 61 of the Iowa Administrative Code, information on the corps’ two new regional permits for Iowa, the corps’ public notice for the nationwide permits and the Federal Register for the changes to the nationwide permits can be found at [www.iowadnr.com/water/section401/index.html](http://www.iowadnr.com/water/section401/index.html) by clicking on “Rule Changes.”

Any interested person can submit written comments on the proposed DNR rule changes on or before Dec. 26. Comments should be sent to Christine Schwake, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 502 E. 9th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319-0034, by e-mail to [Christine.Schwake@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Christine.Schwake@dnr.state.ia.us) or by faxing them to 515-281-8895.